



Baydon St Nicholas Church of England Voluntary Aided School

Family ,Faith, Celebrating Achievement

Dear Parents

Welcome to the latest Governing Body Newsletter.

We hope this helps to inform you about the work of the Governing Body and the involvement of Governors in the running of the School.

Who Are We?



As a Voluntary Aided Church School we have Foundation Governors appointed by the Parochial Church Council; other Governors represent the stakeholders of the School and are appointed or elected as appropriate.

- **Peter Chambers** - Head Teacher:
- **Lesley Whelan** – Chair of Governors.
Foundation Governor, Finance and Buildings Committee
- **Andrew Campbell-Laing** – Vice Chair,
Parent Governor, Buildings committee
- **Jackie Hollander** - Ex officio (appointed by the church), Chair of Finance and Buildings Committee
- **Barbara Furber** – Foundation Governor,
Chair of Teaching and Learning Committee
- **Paula Bartlett** – Foundation Governor,
Communications Group, Teaching and Learning Committee.
- **Fiona Smart**;- Foundation Governor,
Communications Group, Teaching and Learning committee
- **Emma Harton- Carter** - Parent Governor, Buildings Committee,
- **Amanda Osbourne** – Foundation Governor, Building Committee;

- **Donni Blackwell** – Foundation Governor, Wagtails Governor, Communications Group
- **Tony Topp** – Foundation Governor, Buildings Committee.
- **Emma Gilbert** – Staff Governor, Teaching and Learning Committee.
- Vacancy - Local Authority Governor

In addition there are four Associate Governors:

Allison Dobson; Susan Harris; Bridget Walker; Denise Mathewson. They use their expertise as necessary or required by the Full Governing Body (FGB.)

The FGB are supported by the Clerk, Laurien Carter who is employed by the Wiltshire Council County Clerking Service.

How we work.

The full Governing Body (FGB) meets six times a year with Governors serving on the Finance and Buildings Committee, the Teaching and Learning Committee and various other work groups which report to the FGB. Individual governors also take responsibility for different aspects of school.



What We Do

The Governor's main role is to support the Head Teacher and the Staff – the phrase often used to describe this role is 'a critical friend'. We help them to set and reach targets and to strive for excellence across



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the whole spectrum of school life. A key document used for this is the School Improvement Plan (SIP). This last year we changed the School Improvement Plan from looking at the year ahead to setting out a three year strategic plan for the school, with targets that everyone works towards. This is still a work in progress but will help Staff and Governors ensure we give every child the best possible start to their formal education.

Our legal duties include:-

- setting strategic direction, policies and objectives
- approving the school budget
- reviewing progress against the school's budget and objectives
- appointing, challenging and supporting the Head Teacher

The Governors work with the Head Teacher in setting the strategic direction of the school but the Head Teacher is responsible for the day to day management and running of the School.

All Governors, apart from the Head Teacher, are appointed on a voluntary basis. However each one brings their own skill(s) and experience to the role which is most important.

New Governors



We are delighted to welcome two new governors this year.

Donni Blackwell

I am a teacher and my desire to work with young children started from the age of four when I used to pretend to be the teacher to my playmates.

We moved to Lambourn in 1990 when my husband and I felt the urge to move to the countryside rather than coping with the hustle and bustle of town life. I returned to teaching after a five year break just as the National Curriculum appeared! I remained teaching at Lambourn School for over a decade before taking on the Headships of two small schools spanning ten years. My yearning to return to the classroom was always there so that is what I have done and the rewards I receive in watching children learn is such a tonic!

I have been a member of Baydon Church for many years and wish to support the school in whatever way I can.

Tony Topp

Many of you will know me as I have had a long association with the school, first as a parent and for over 20 years as a premises member of staff, with my wife Pauline.

I have been on the Church PCC for a number of years including 13 years as Church warden from which I stood down last year.

I have worked in Agriculture for 40 years and work locally. I have 2 grown up daughters who both attended the School and I have lived in Baydon for 35 years.

I look forward to the new challenge of Governor on the Buildings Committee.



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Other Changes

Amanda Osborne completed her term of office as Non-Teaching Staff Governor but was appointed Foundation Governor in Spring 2014.

Other changes since last summer: Tom McGowran's term of office came to an end, David Rhodes resigned for personal reasons and Wendy Appello resigned as Associate Governor. Thanks to them all for their work as Governors.



Meetings

At every meeting the Governors receive a report from the Head Teacher and each Committee which generates questions and discussion. Governors have particular responsibility in overseeing the School's finance so receive reports from the School and Wiltshire Council. Parent and Staff governors have the opportunity to raise issues and Jackie Hollander reports on Foundation matters from the local church community.



Recent meetings have focussed on the data – the children's progress and SATs results – and the way this information directs and informs the teaching. NB: no individual children are identified or discussed. We also need to consider how we operate as a Governing Body and look for ways to improve what we do individually and as a

group. OFSTED use the data to see how a school is performing and Governors need to understand all the nuances of various statistics and graphs. Fortunately Peter Chambers and Emma Gilbert are very good at sharing their knowledge and expertise.

Governors take advantage of a whole range of valuable training offered throughout the year by Wiltshire County and Salisbury Diocese. We also try to run our own workshop each year and this time we focused on how we develop and use the three year Strategic Improvement Plan and the role Governors have in supporting the School in achieving its' aims.

Through this year it was agreed that Governors would focus on monitoring writing.

Governors are often around the school and can use some of this time for more formal classroom visits.



We use the SIP and talk to the teachers about the aims of lessons and identifying success criteria. We also see evidence on the wall displays. Governors are also encouraged to talk with pupils – which is the really fun bit! We make sure we are monitoring and not inspecting or judging as we are not teachers.



This school year saw the introduction of Free School Meals for Foundation and Key Stage 1 children. It took some planning but we are



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pleased so many children are enjoying their lunches. A big thank you to all of you who responded to our questionnaire about school meals. Your feedback is an important part of how we monitor the school meal provision and the results are also being fed back to our provider.

Schools have been enjoying some extra money for PE and Baydon St Nicholas has used the money to provide a variety of opportunities for children to try things such as tennis coaching or hockey as well as updating equipment. All children have benefitted from expert sports coaching by Mr Smith.

We welcome hearing your thoughts, praise and concerns about Baydon St Nicholas School and how we can make it an even more wonderful place for the children. Please use the suggestion box in the reception area or write to us c/o Baydon St Nicholas School.



Further information about St Nicholas can be found at: <http://www.baydon-school.org.uk/>